



VOLUME 58 ISSUE 07

July 2008

Let's Play Looney Bin

Dick Thompson WØRAA



The credits for this excellent piece are at the end. I claim no rights to say that I wrote it. I am simply passing it along because it's one of the funniest pieces on contesting and is extremely well written. Enjoy. Dick – WØRAA

Let's Play "Looney Bin"!

Have you heard about the latest game? It's called "Looney Bin". You could call it "Multiple Insanity", "Super Stupidity", or whatever you want, but here is how it is played:

All the players - and there is a great many of them - gather in a large confined area, which is also occupied by people who are NOT playing Looney Bin". Each player arms himself with a club, the size of which is limited by regulations of the game to one kilogram (that's 2.2 lbs.). Some players use a hinged club, the effect of which is to transmit additional energy, so that their clubs are the equivalent of 2 kilograms - sometimes called "2KG peak effective power."

The game has an announced starting time, at which time the players - and there are a great many of them, as we said - proceed to attract the attention of other players by hitting them over the head with their clubs.

As the area where the game is played is usually crowded, a great many who are NOT players are hit over the head with one kilogram, which they do not like at all.

The objective of the game is to see how many players can be hit over the head with one's 1kg club. Each player must keep a record, called a log (not to be confused with the club, which is a small log of another type). The best players can hit other players over the head with their club while keeping their log with the other hand. Upon being hit over the head, a player announces (a) how sharp the blow was, rated on a 1 to 5 scale; and (b) the pressure of the blow, rated on a 1 to 9 scale. Thus, upon being struck, the player shouts "5-9" and proceeds to exchange blows with the player who has just bounced his club off the first player's head.

Obviously, it takes a pretty hard head to play this game, but after partaking in a number of such contests, one's head becomes almost impervious to the blows. Many players drop their anticipation in such events, of course, since they see no point to either being hit on the head, or exercising violence upon others.

Some parts of the playing area are more accessible than others and the real challenge to a player is to hit the more remotely located players. When everybody tries to do this, what is known as a "pile-up" occurs, with dozens of players being hit over the head at once and hardly anyone ever hitting the head of the player at which he had taken aim. Such "pile-ups" are very frustrating and many players have abandoned the game

Cont'd...

because of them. The winner of the game is the player who has swung his club most effectively, hitting more players on the head than anyone else, and in more areas of the playing space. Indeed, it is considered a great achievement to have hit people on the head in every square foot of the playing area!

A ticklish situation has developed as a result of so many games of "Looney Bin" being played in the playing area. Indeed, some group or other is sponsoring a game almost every weekend. The people who don't like to play "Looney Bin" actually outnumber by far those who are avid "Loonies." But, when the non-players object to filling up the large confined area, of which we spoke, with club wielding "loonies", the objectors are called - of all things - "soreheads". If their heads are sore, it is pretty obvious what made them that way.

The game is played rougher in some parts of the country than in others. Cheating consists primarily of using a heavier club than the 1-kilogram rules allow. In California, it is said, clubs weighing several kilograms -as much as 18 kilograms having been reported - are sometimes used and the hit other players' heads very, very hard. They hit non-players just as hard and some non-players would like to abolish Looney Bin once and for all. How about you?

W8AP

NOTE: (The above was sent in by K3WS and is taken from "Auto-Call" (Washington, D.C.) April 1971. He writes, "There is a lesson here, but I'm not sure what it is! By the way, W8AP is not anti-contest and is frequently in there with the rest of us.")

NONPROFIT STATUS

The PPRAA is a federal 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and welcomes all contributions. Your contributions or donations may be tax-deductible.

Five at Five

Dan Scott WØRO



If you were like me, you started in Amateur Radio learning Morse code and maybe it was taught as part of your studies for your Novice ticket. You mastered the dreaded 5-WPM at 5-WPM and now held a brand new Novice ticket between your thumb and forefinger.

Here is where the real problem came in. You had to get over key-fright and come back down to reality. Your imagination has you convinced that the first contact you make will be someone like the King of Jordon, Art Linkletter, Barry Goldwater, or someone in Australia. Yeah, right, at 5WPM? With visions of grandeur and enough nerve to believe I wouldn't send every character wrong, I put out my first CQ. Visions of my first contact with someone on an exotic island are quickly crushed, but after the QSO I walked a couple blocks over to his house and checked out his rig.

After a few weeks on the air in the Novice band, you came to the realization that I needed to send code at least a little faster; 3x faster would be great. Then the really big, I mean really BIG shock, hit you needed re-learn code. 16-18 WPM was nowhere near the same as code ast5 WPM.

My personal problem with code is two-fold:

1. My time as a Novice making contacts was extremely rewarding. It was thrilling as a Novice having a Q-Signal QSO with folks from places like Yugoslavia, Israel, or Brazil, where Morse code provides the actual common language for a meaningful exchange.
2. Learning 5-at-5 code taught me to mentally play the "dit-dah look-up" game. For example, I would hear "dah-dit-dah" and say to myself "dah-dit-dah" is a K then write a K down. This technique works well, no make that "kind-of OK", for me up into the mid and upper teen-WPM.

Cont'd...

Jump forward to today. I'm still struggling with the dit-dah look-up game. This translates to a maximum code speed of about 18 WPM. But I want to play in the DX portion of the band and I don't want to use programs like MixW so I'm trying to quickly get to 25wpm.

Enter computers and a Morse code teaching technique called the Koch method. Ludwig Koch came up with this method in the 1930s, but it was not feasible to implement until it was computerized. The Koch method teaches you to hear the character, not the dits and dahs of the character more easily than other methods I've come across. I have found that with 35 WPM characters presented at 21 WPM my mental look table processing will not work and I can eventually copy at 90% for the set of characters received. I'm currently just under one-half of the way through this iteration of re-learning Morse code.

Nope, I do not have it mastered yet, but I thought I'd write up my experiences with my slow-code problem and how I'm trying to re-learn and correct the problem. This also provides self-inflicted peer pressure so maybe I'll keep going and reach my 35 WPM goal.

73,
Dan Scott
WØRO

In other words...

Jackie Cornwell ACØCA

As my last official act as editor of the PPRAA Ø-Beat, I'd like to tell you about an article you won't find here in the print version of this issue. Dick Thompson WØRAA has written a contesting article with screen shots of a program: N1MM Logger. You should check it out if you're at all interested in contesting.

I have noticed that no one has stepped up to take over the position of editor and I expected no less. Too many people have volunteered their time and talents in your places that you've become complacent and think that someone will always step up to do the job you've considered but haven't committed to doing. As people fall by the wayside, ask yourself what you'll be missing.

Jackie Cornwell ACØCA

DITS and BITS



Even on a motorcycle trip to Royal Gorge, I can find Bill KDØJV with his HT. Here is a picture of Bill, note his "mobile rig". And, yes, he hit the 97 repeater from the bridge.

Dan, ACØCC

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE EXAMINATIONS

The PPRAA/VE team holds testing sessions at 9 AM at the Colorado Technical University, 4435 North Chestnut (just west of I-25 and just south of Garden of the Gods Rd).

Exam fee: \$14.00 for Elements 2, 3 and/or 4, payable to ARRL/VEC.
No same-day retakes of same element. Walk-ins allowed; pre-registration not necessary.

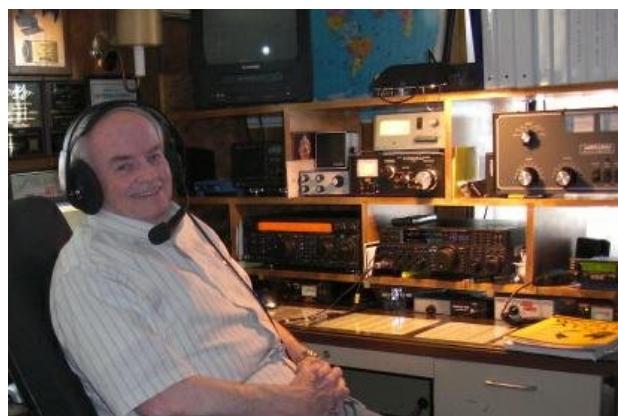
BRING: Photo ID, original and copy of valid ham license and/or valid CSCE and FRN for licensed hams.

Contact:
Jackie Cornwell ACØCA at 719-632-8254 or email at AC0CA@arrl.net

Online: ppraa.org or arrl.org.

Mark your calendars:

Aug. 9, Oct. 11, Dec. 13

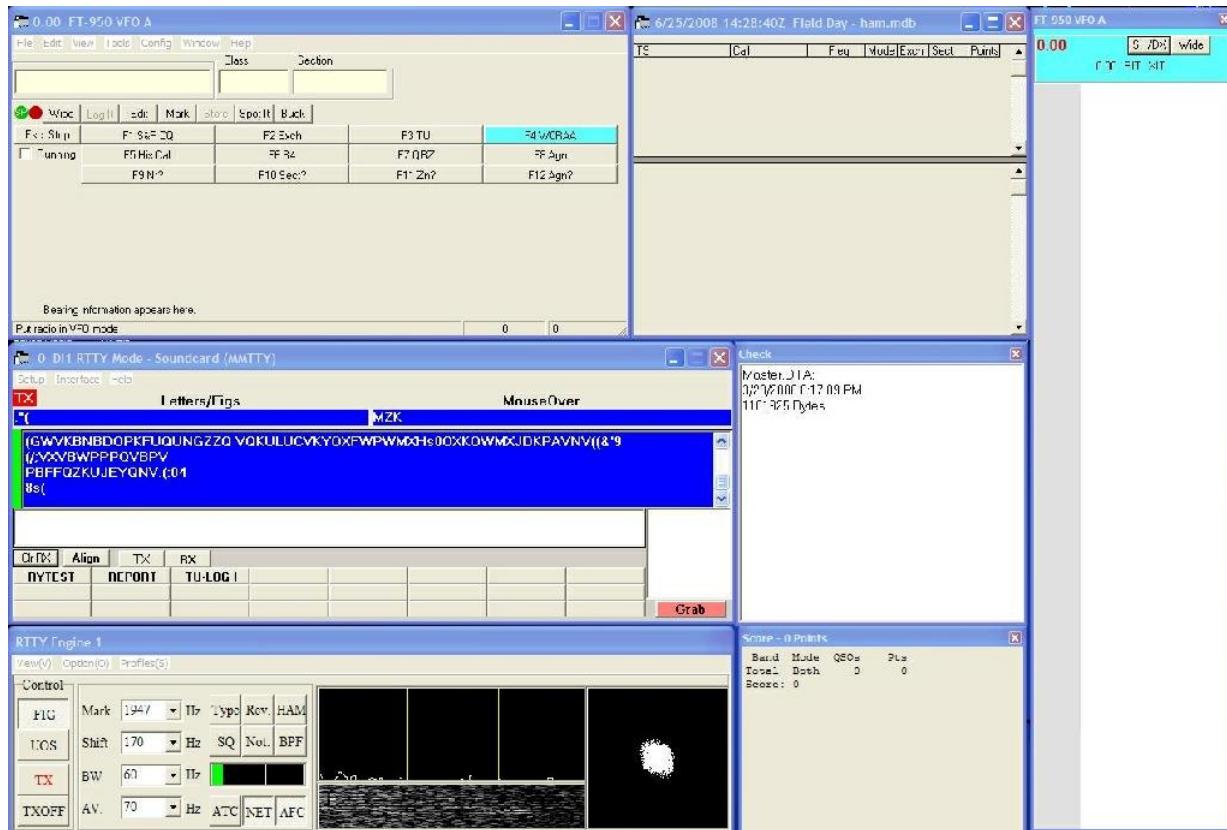


Entering a Contest

Dick Thompson WØRRAA

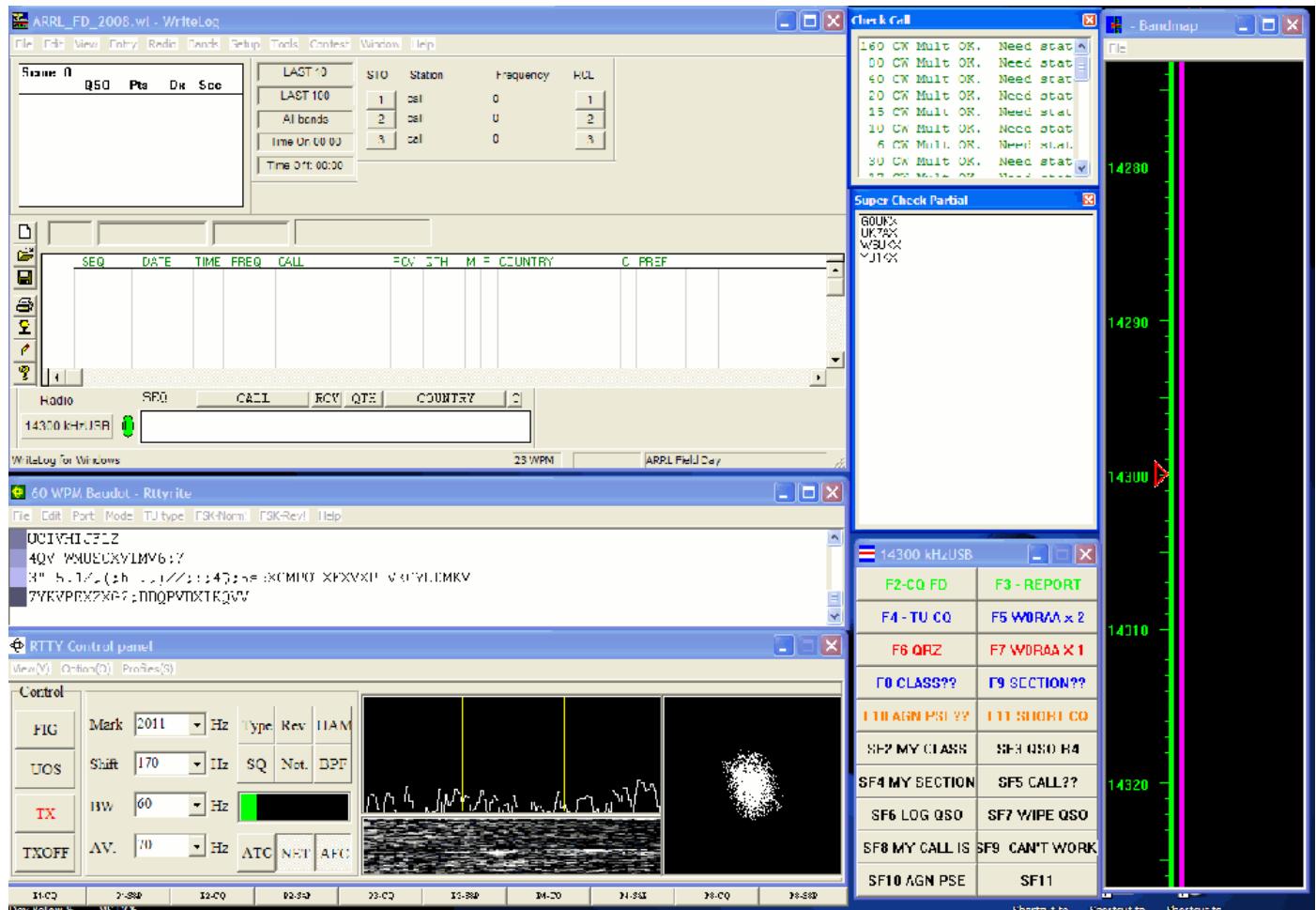
So you've decided that you want to give ham radio contesting a try to see what all the fuss is about. But, having never entered a contest before (for some, not all), you have a bunch of questions that need some answers before you're ready to jump in and get your feet wet.

I am by no means a contest guru. I have done a lot of contesting and managed to achieve first place in a few, but nothing like first place in the world. I usually enter a contest because they are fun. And, I suggest that maybe you will want to approach this new adventure with a similar attitude. Initially, get into a contest and have some fun. That's the key word, FUN! Winning can come later. Being realistic, you may find that contesting is just not your niche in ham radio. That's OK. Not everybody likes to contest. For every ham that loves contesting, there are probably an equal number that dislike it. Many of the nay-sayers claim that the contestants take all the frequencies away from the non-contesters. Not true. Contesting is not permitted on any of the WARC bands. So, if you like to rag chew, you can always go to 12, 17 and 30 meters. Some pretty good bands are 17 meters and 30 meters and at times better than 20 meters. Also, keep in mind that if the contest is a CW contest, or a RTTY contest, the voice frequencies are still available and vice-versa. A good place to start, I guess, is to find out what contests are being run in any particular month. A good place to look is Bruce Horn's Contest calendar page at: www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/



That being said, let's move on. There are several ways you can enter a contest as far a logging is concerned. If you are used to the old-fashioned way, you can do it with paper and pencil. And, some still do, for some reason. But in this

age of computers, there are some mighty nice computer contest programs available. A free one that is quite good is N1MM Logger. N1MM is available at www.n1mm.com. If you have never used it, download the latest Full Install Version 8.0.0. This file *must* be downloaded first and installed. Then, download the latest update, which, as I write this is version 8.6.2. All previous updates are incorporated into the latest update, so you only need to install one update and it will take care of any glitches that may have been present in previous versions. There is an excellent Yahoo-Groups reflector for N1MM Logger and I would suggest that you join this reflector if you are going to run N1MM. N1MM has a learning curve to it, but it's not insurmountable. The N1MM web site is overflowing with information and help. So, this is one option if you want to contest using the computer.



Another popular choice is Writelog. Writelog has been a choice of many contesters for many years and even though N1MM Logger is popular, Writelog still holds a slight edge, despite the \$35 fee for the program. It is available from www.writelog.com, the go to Downloads, read that page and download the program. You will need to buy the program if you want to use it, but the \$35 price tag is not very steep. It would be nice if Wayne, K5DJ, the author of Writelog would have a version that could be downloaded and tried for a couple weeks and then quit after that. But, as of yet he doesn't. I have used Writelog as my favorite contesting program for the past 4+ years. I use it and occasionally N1MM Logger, but my favorite program is Writelog. I guess I find it more user friendly. At my age, I need all the user friendliness I can get. Hi Hi!

There are other programs out on the web that are very capable contest logging programs, but the two mentioned above are the 2 most popular, especially if you are going to operate in a RTTY, CW or SSB Contest. If you are into PSK31

or one of the other digital modes, then you may want to look at some of the programs that are capable of doing those modes. Google for "Ham Radio Contest Software" (without the quotes) and you will find a lot of different options to choose from. I use MixW for PSK contesting, although I am not convinced it is the best PSK contest program out there. I'm sure there are others. Just do a little research and ask some questions. Many folks use MixW during a contest and find it suits their needs. You know the old saying "...whatever fires your rocket" or something like that. Writelog has a good reflector on Yahoo.Groups.com that is a good source of help for the newcomer. There is no such thing as a stupid question. If you need help, ask. That's what hams do and we usually get help from somebody.

The easiest mode to set up for a contest is SSB. It doesn't require any special add-ons and you can simply type in the call of the station you work, along with the report you receive, hit Enter and the contact is logged and scored. If the same station happens to call you again and you type in his/her call and you've worked them before, it will show as a duplication (or DUPE). You can tell the station that you've worked before or just go ahead and work them again. I choose the latter, as it takes less time than telling the other station that I worked them at such and such a time on a frequency of xxxxx, etc. Also, I try to keep in mind that they may have typed my call in wrong. I may have said "W0RAA 59 CO" and they may have entered my call as K0 or W0AA or W0RA. Who knows? It's much easier to just work them again and let the contest scoring software sort it out when you send in the Cabrillo file after the contest. Better to have a DUPE than a BUSTED contact. So, if you are going to enter a SSB contest, pick your software and just jump in and have fun. By the way, if you work a friend or buddy, forget the amenities of "Hi Steve" or "Hey, how's it going, Joe?". Just exchange reports and move on. That little chatter could cost you a contact or two, especially if another station is waiting for you to make the contact and exchange reports. He may just move on and contact somebody else. If that station may have been a multiplier, it could cost you several hundred points.

If you are going to operate in a contest that is CW or RTTY (FSK or AFSK) then, another roadblock is tossed into the mix. I operate AFSK. I find it is adequate, the station at the other end may be operating FSK RTTY, but neither of us knows (or for that matter cares) what the other station is running. As long as the Exchange is made and acknowledged, that's all that matters. If you are going to operate RTTY, you will need the MMTTY Plug-in for Writelog and N1MM Logger. MMTTY is a stand-alone RTTY program for RTTY. You can download it from the Internet or one of the contest software web sites. The installation is pretty easily accomplished. Just let it install itself in the default location. You will need to have an interface or a cable that you plug into the rear of your rig. Almost all of the newer transceivers have a RTTY/PKT DIN plug on the back and the cable from one of those sockets would go to your soundcard on your PC. If you use an interface such as Rigblaster from www.westmountainradio.com, the chore is quite easy. West Mountain Radio makes excellent products and will definitely be worth the cost if you want the ease of getting on the air in digital modes or contest in digital modes. I may be mistaken, but I think the RigBlaster Pro also has the ability to allow you to key your radio in CW mode in a contest, using the Function (Fn) keys. Keep in mind that there are several interfaces available on the ham market, all of which are advertised in the hobby magazines such as QST, CQ, World Radio and the National Contest Journal, etc. If you want to operate CW during a contest, you must have a simple keying circuit that consists of a transistor, capacitor and a resistor. To have radio control using the software, you will need a serial cable (not a null modem cable). With the circuit in the system, you can program the Fn keys to send the contents of what is programmed into the Function keys. It's the only way to go in a contest. All of the information you need to do this is available on the web. I could go into a lot more detail, but I don't want anybody to fall asleep reading this article. The intent is to get you interested in contesting. If I can help in that effort, please let me know. I use the K1EL WinkeyUSB keyer for keying CW. Go to www.k1el.com for details. If you don't have a keyer, this is a nice unit. I also use a Logikey K5 Keyer. It's available from www.idiompress.com.

Next, choose in which category you want to enter the contest. It can be SOLP (Single Op Low Power), MS LP (Multi Op Single Radio Low Power), QRP and so forth. Each set of contest rules generally have a listing of categories.

Do a little planning ahead. If I can offer some assistance, please feel free to contact me on the reflector or at w0raa@comcast.net. Join the fun. You'll be hooked in no time.

Dick Thompson W0RAA

PPRAA BOARD MEETING MINUTES
June 16, 2008

Attendees: Doug N7LEM, Mike WV7T, George KCØTVU, Dan ACØCC, Dennis NØABC, Mike KØMLA, Bill KDØJU and Dan, KØRO.

President Doug Nielsen N7LEM called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM at the Stetson Hills Police Substation.

Minutes: Dan ACØCC / Dennis moved/seconded to approve Board minutes as printed. Passed.

Reports

- ❖ **Treasurer's Report** – Dennis NØABC reported that we have \$13,437.85 in our accounts as of 11 June. The final cost for the Lewis Palmer HS Gym and tables will not be billed until July.
- ❖ **Megafest** – An organizational planning meeting for the 2009 Megafest will be held after lunch at the August club picnic. Since HamCon will be held in 2009, we will have to look at a July date for next year's Megafest. HamCon should be a good opportunity to sell more raffle tickets.
- ❖ **Field Day** – Dan KBØPPM reported that everything is on track though he still needs a few volunteers. Dan ACØCC / Mike WV7T moved/seconded that funds not to exceed \$300 be approved for food costs. Passed. Dan ACØCC / Dennis moved/seconded that funds not to exceed \$50 be allocated for miscellaneous field day expenses. Passed.
- ❖ **Club Picnic** – Mike KØMLA / Mike WV7T moved seconded that funds not to exceed \$300 be allocated for food costs. Passed.
- ❖ **COQP 2008** – 20 September. Still looking for plaque sponsors from other clubs. Next planning meeting will be some time in July.

- ❖ **HamCon 2009** – Dan, KØRO has volunteered to be the club representative. Dennis may act as back up if Dan cannot attend a meeting.
- ❖ **Zero Beat** - We still need an editor starting after the July issue. If interested, please contact a Board member or Jackie Cornwell.
- ❖ **Bylaws and Club Manual** – This item was tabled until August to allow everyone time to read and discuss proposed changes.
- ❖ **Expenditure of Raffle Funds** - Dan ACØCC / Mike WV7T moved seconded to allocate \$200 for a portable projection screen. Passed. Dennis will look into getting the screen. The motion of allocating up to \$2000 to support a D-Star system in Southern Colorado will be presented at the July membership meeting.

New Business

- ❖ **Handouts for hobby night event:** Doug presented some informational sheets on Ham Radio and Field Day that were based on ARRL material but edited to specifically reference PPRAA. These were meant to support a request for information at a local hobby night event but could also be used at other events, such as Field Day, to advertise the club and ham radio.
- ❖ **Nominating committee for the October Club Elections:** Dan ACØCC will head the effort to identify candidates for the upcoming club elections.

Around the Table

- ❖ **Mike WV7T** – Dan ACØCC and Mike will get together to conduct an asset inventory. He has recovered a radio set once donated by the club to a local church school. The radio may need some repair. Instead the radio will be sold at a fair market value and the proceeds

Cont'd...

returned to the club. He is prepared to conduct tech, general and antenna workshops as the need arises.

- ❖ **Dennis** – The VE session at Megafest had 22 attendees: 6 techs, 9 generals, 1 extra and 6 no-gains.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 PM.

Next PPRAA Board meeting: 7 PM, Monday, July 14, 2008, at the Stetson Hills Police Substation.

*Submitted by:
Douglas Nielsen N7LEM
for
John Wishart KCØJFH
PPRAA Secretary*

PPRAA CLUB MEETING MINUTES June 11, 2008



President Doug N7LEM called the meeting to order at 7:09 PM at Panera Bread, followed by introductions around the room.

Silent Keys: None.

Minutes: The May meeting minutes were approved Les/Mike WV7T as printed in the Zero Beat. Passed

Treasurer's Report: Dennis NØABC reported that we had a \$13,437.85 total balance in our three accounts as of 11 June 2008.

Committee Reports

- ❖ **Megafest:** Rob N7LV - The event was a success and the club came out in the black.
- ❖ **Summer Picnic** - Aug 16, 2008. Dirty Woman Park in Monument has been reserved for this event. Meat and drinks will be

provided by PPRAA. Please plan on bringing a salad, dessert, or side dish to share. A 2009 Megafest planning meeting will follow the picnic.

- ❖ **Colorado QSO Party 2008** - Date is September 20, 2008. More volunteers are still needed, particularly in scoring the event. If interested, please contact a Board member. Sponsors are doing well in supporting the award plaques.

New Business

Club Vacancies:

- ✓ Zero Beat Editor - still needed by July 25th for the August issue. Hamcon 2009
- ✓ Representative- needed now. Will need to attend monthly meetings in Castle Rock. Gas reimbursement is available. If you are interested in either the Zero Beat or Hamcon positions, please contact a Board member.

- ❖ **Technical Education:** Mike WV7T is taking prospective Techs and Generals for individual one-on-one instruction. Also has a PowerPoint presentation for Tech instruction.

Programs

- ❖ **Field Day Planning:** Dan Scott WØRO - June 28-29, setup on June 27. Location is Tri-Lakes Fire Station 1 on Hwy 105 in Monument. It will be conducted as a communications exercise. WØTLM is the fire station call sign, AFØS is the club call sign. Setup will start at about noon on Friday and about 9 AM on Sat. Please bring a side dish or salads for dinner on Sat. Volunteers are still needed to track contest bonuses, coordinate GOTA. Contact Dan or a Board member if you can help.

- ❖ **Southern Colorado D-STAR Project:** Informational Presentation -- Dave Novotny

Cont'd...

WA6IFI and Perry NØWMZ from CMRG presented a very informative meeting about D-STAR, a new digital communication technology for amateur radio.

See the following websites for more information on D-STAR

- www.dstarinfo.com
- www.icomamerica.com/en/products/amateur/dstar/id1/default.aspx
- www.k5tit.org
- www.adamfast.com/hamradio/dstar-presentation-v1

Next Club Meeting: 7 PM, Wed 9 July 2008. The remainder of the year's regular club meetings (except Nov. and Dec.) will be at the Panera Bread Restaurant at Powers and S. Carefree (NE corner).

Next Board Meeting: 7 PM, Monday following club meeting is June 16 at the Stetson Hills Police Substation, 4110 Tutt Blvd.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

*Submitted by:
John Wishart KCØJFH
PPRAA Secretary
22 June 2008*

Jess Miley

KØTAA

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SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS

Jul 15-Jul 17, 1500Z-2100Z, Greenleaf, WI. Green Bay Mike and Key Club, K9EAM. Wisconsin Farm Technology Days. 14.230 7.250 3.875. Certificate. David Catalano, N8KQS, 2937 Beth Dr, Green Bay, WI 54311-7516. n8kqs@sbcglobal.net or www.k9eam.com

Jul 17-Jul 23, 1200Z-2100Z, Warren, OH. Warren Amateur Radio Association, W8P. 19th Annual Packard Car Show. 20 m 40 m. Certificate. Gail Wells, KC8LRH, 708 Delaware Ave SW, Warren, OH 44485. kc8lrh@hotmail.com or www.w8vtd.org

Jul 19, 1300Z-2000Z, Paris, TX. Red River Valley Amateur Radio Club, WB5RDD. 24th Annual Tour de Paris Bike Rally. 28.350 14.295 146.76 444.500. QSL. Leo Salas, N5JEP, PO Box 6103, Paris, TX 75461-6103. www.wb5rdd.org

Jul 19, 1300Z-1600Z, Wapakoneta, OH. Reservoir Amateur Radio Association, K8QYL. Celebrating the 39th anniversary of Moon Landing. 14.235 7.185. QSL. Rick Wagaman, WB8ZRQ, 240 Lincoln Dr, Celina, OH 45822. rwig1@verizon.net

Jul 19, 1800Z-2200Z, Los Alamos, NM. Los Alamos Amateur Radio Club, W5PDO. The Earthwatch Institute's Student Challenge Awards Program. 28.450 21.350 14.250. Certificate. Don Casperson, AA5PA, 1423 43rd St, Los Alamos, NM 87544. *From Fenton Hill Observatory.* laastro.lanl.gov/earthwatch

Jul 19-Jul 20, 1300Z-2200Z, Cambridge, OH. Cambridge Amateur Radio Association, W8C. Zane's Trace, 200 year anniversary of the first road in the NW Territory. 14.260 7.235. QSL. George A. Alfman, 1975 N Moose Eye Rd, Norwich, OH 43767. *Look for other special events in main cities along the original Zane's Trace road across Ohio -- from Wheeling, WV through OH to Maysville, KY.* geoalfman@aol.com or www.w8vp.org

Cont'd on Pg 11...

PPRAA PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Greetings PPRAA,

June has been a busy month for Ham Radio in the Front Range. The month began with our annual Megafest at Lewis-Palmer High

School in Monument. This year's Megafest turned out to be one of the best in recent years. We had well over 450 attendees and more than 70 tables sold. Raffle ticket sales were down a little from past years due to a late start in selling tickets and missing the opportunity to sell at some of the earlier Colorado ham fests. To avoid that problem next year we will start planning early for next year's Megafest. There will be an initial planning meeting held after lunch at the club picnic. Since HamCon takes place in Estes Park in June 2009, our Megafest will probably take place in July, depending upon the availability of Lewis-Palmer High School.

Speaking of the club picnic, on Saturday, August 16th, we will meet at Dirty Woman Creek Park in Monument, CO. The event will start at 9AM for social time, tailgate equipment swap and to do some operating in the great outdoors before lunch around noon. The club will provide BBQ and drinks; everyone should bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share. We will send out a notice on the reflector to let you know which you should bring. Hope to see you there.

At the June membership meeting, the folks from CMRG came and gave a presentation on D-STAR. There is currently a lot of interest around the country about this new digital technology. Prices are currently still high, but as systems are implemented and more hams start using it, volume will increase selection and help bring costs down. Denver recently put a D-Star system on the air and will eventually move it to a higher location to provide coverage for most of northern Colorado. Several clubs in southern Colorado have expressed interest in getting a system on the air to support our area. This was discussed to some extent at the last two club meetings. We will continue to

discuss PPRAA's opportunity to provide financial support to this effort at the July meeting. Please attend the July meeting if you have an interest in supporting D-Star in southern Colorado.

The club finally has a new representative to the HamCon 2009 committee. Dan Scott, WØRO volunteered to represent the PPRAA on the committee. He will provide us updates as planning progresses. If you have any input for the HamCon committee, please contact Dan or any of your PPRAA Board Members.

June began with the Megafest and finished up with Amateur Radio Field Day. Tri-Lakes Fire Station #1 in Monument hosted Field Day for us again this year. We operated as 3F station as part of the fire district's EOC. This year's focus was on education and support to emergency operations. As part of the educational mission, we had several demonstrations of digital technologies including packet, APRS and D-Star. To demonstrate support of emergency communications, we operated this year under the National Incident Management System/Incident Command Structure (NIMS/ICS) standards. This formalized some of the lead positions and support structure and made us think through more of the planning for setting up the event. Although some were initially worried that the ICS would greatly increase the effort required, it turned out to be fairly easy and was a great learning experience. We will surely be better prepared to support a real emergency when it happens. Overall, it was another great event.

October is election time for the PPRAA. It's not too early to start thinking about filling a position on next year's board. Four board positions will be open, along with all the officer positions. Please start considering running for a position to help provide future direction for the club. Dan, AC0CC, is heading up the nomination process. If you would be interested in running or know somebody that would do a good job, please contact Dan.

73,
Douglas Nielsen, N7LEM
PPRAA President

Special Event Stations Cont'd...

Jul 19-Jul 20, 1300Z-2200Z, Zanesville, OH. Muskingum Valley Amateur Radio Group, W8Z. Zane's Trace, 200 year anniversary of the first road in the NW Territory. 14.260 7.235. QSL. George Alfman, 1975 N Moose Eye Rd, Norwich, OH 43767. *Look for other special events in several main cities along the original Zane's Trace road across Ohio -- from Wheeling, WV through OH to Maysville, KY.* geoalfman@aol.com

Jul 19-Jul 21, 1600Z-0400Z, South Manitou Island, MI. BSA Scout's Venture Crew 9050, W8M. SM Island National Park and Lighthouse Activation. 18.160 14.247 14.040 7.250. Certificate. Dan Mills, 1817 Mills Ave, North Muskegon, MI 49445. dan@n8ppq.net or www.n8ppq.net

Jul 25-Jul 26, 1200Z-2000Z, Berne, IN. Adams County Amateur Radio Club, W9A. Annual "Swiss Days" in the Swiss community of Berne, Indiana. 14.280 7.280 7.120 18.140. QSL. Adams Co Amateur Radio Club, c/o 604 Sprunger St, Berne, IN 46711. wb9kqo.com

Jul 25-Jul 27, 1500Z-0300Z, Indianapolis, IN. Indianapolis Motor Speedway Amateur Radio Club, W9IMS. 15th running of the Brickyard 400. 21.340 14.240 7.240 3.840. QSL. Indianapolis Motor Speedway ARC, PO Box 18495, Indianapolis, IN 46218-0495. *QSL and certificate available.* www.w9ims.com

Jul 26-Jul 27, 1400Z-1400Z, Sanborn, IA. Northwest Iowa Amateur Radio Club, W0VHQ. Celebrating "Rail Road Days" in Sanborn, IA. 28.460 14.260 7.260 VHF Echolink Node 102345. QSL. W0VHQ, 1430 Western Ave, Sheldon, IA 51201. *Operating from a vintage "DROVERS" Caboose used to house/sleep owners who accompanied their live stock to market.* *Live web cam of operations from vintage Drovers Caboose! follow the link from* www.sanborniowa.com.

Jul 29-Aug 3, 0000Z-2359Z, Isabela, PR. Federation Radio Amateur of Puerto Rico, K4S. Guillermo M. Schwarz, KP3S Memorial Dedication. 18.145 14.230 7.178 3.880. QSL. Carlos R. Rodriguez, KP3S, RR 5 Box 73A, Isabela, PR 00662-4509. kp3s.50megs.com/memory.htm

Jul 31-Aug 3, 1400Z-2200Z, Oshkosh, WI. Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club Inc, W9ZL. Experimental Aircraft Association's Airventure - 2008. 14.270 7.250. Certificate. FCARC/Airventure, PO Box 2346, Appleton, WI 54912. www.fcarc.us

Jul 31-Aug 3, 1700Z-2300Z, Litchfield, MN. Meeker County Amateur Radio Club, K0MCR. First time Amateur Radio is on display at our fair. 14.260 7.260 7.060 3.840. Certificate. Jim Westrup, 524S Holcombe, Litchfield, MN 55355. ka0csw@yahoo.com

August 2008

Aug 1-Aug 4, 1300Z-2359Z, Canton, OH. Canton Amateur Radio Club, W8AL. Annual Pro Football Hall of Fame Festival. 28.365 21.365 14.265 7.265. Certificate. Donald E. Perry, 968 Culverne Ave NW, Massillon, OH 44647. www.w8al.org

Aug 2, 1300Z-2200Z, Dillon, MT. Beaverhead National Forest, W7B. Beaverhead Forest 100th anniversary -- 75th anniversary of the CCCs. 14.200 7.280 3.880. Certificate. Bill Kolar, W7AVG, 955 East Parkview, Dillon, MT 59725. cbkolar@bmt.net

Aug 2, 1400Z-1800Z, Townshend, VT. West River Radio Club, W1RRC. Grace Cottage Hospital Fair Day. 14.250 14.070. QSL. John Borichevsky, N1TOX, PO Box 8087, North Brattleboro, VT 05304-8087. www.westriverradio.org

Aug 2-Aug 3, 0000Z-2359Z, Pittsburgh, PA. Pittsburgh area Amateur Radio clubs, VARIOUS. 250th anniversary of the City of Pittsburgh. 28.350 21.350 14.250 7.250 3.850 and elsewhere. Certificate. Edward K. Oelschlager, N3ZNI, 60 Carl Ave B2, Eighty Four, PA 15330. *Please include \$2 for certificate.* www.pittsburgh250ham.org

Aug 2-Aug 3, 1200Z-2000Z, Groton, CT. Submarine Base Amateur Radio Club, N9N. 50th anniversary of USS Nautilus's trip to North Pole, 1958. 14.343 14.243 7.279. QSL. Don Keith, N4KC, 40 Red Stick Rd, Indian Springs Village, AL 35124. n4kc@bellsouth.net

Aug 2-Aug 3, 1400Z-2200Z, Alexandria, VA. The Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club, K4CG. The 218th Birthday of the United States Coast Guard. 14.250 10.110 7.270. QSL. US Coast Guard TISCOM, 7323 Telegraph Rd, Alexandria, VA 22310.
k4us@mvarc.com

Aug 2-Aug 4, 1700Z-0100Z, Anchorage, AK. Anchorage Amateur Radio Club, KL7AA. 2008 Alaska ARRL Convention. 14.929. QSL. Alaska QSL Bureau, PO Box 520343, Big Lake, AK 99652.
www.kl7aa.com/

Aug 7-Aug 17, 1400Z-0000Z, Des Moines, IA. Madison County DX Club, W0ISF. The annual running of the great Iowa State Fair. 146.535 14.250 7.250. QSL. Mark Mease, 2989 Truro Rd, Truro, IA 50257. *Operating times, day and evening, and will vary throughout the Fair.* mmease@netins.net

Aug 9, 1200Z-2200Z, Stow, MA. Central Massachusetts Amateur Radio Association, W1BIM. Smokey Bear's 64th Birthday. 28.450 14.265. QSL. Ray Doucette, KB1OUW, 2 Dawes Rd, Stow, MA 01775. www.cmara.org

Aug 9, 1300Z-2200Z, Oil Springs, ON, Canada. Lambton County Radio Club, VA3OIL. 150th anniversary of the 1st commercial oil well in North America. 14.240 7.240 3.840. QSL. KB1SF, 3560 Pine Grove #488, Port Huron, MI 48060. *US, QSL to address listed. Canadians QSL VA3KSF, 377 Bentinck St, PO Box 33, Corunna, ON N0N 1G0 Canada.*
www.ve3sar.org

Aug 9, 1300Z-1900Z, Van Wert, OH. Van Wert Amateur Radio Club, W8FY. US 127/US 30 Garage Sales Crossover Point. SSB 14.304 7.204 CW 7.044 FM 146.850 EchoLink 315705. Certificate. Van Wert Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 602, Van Wert, OH 45891. www.w8fy.org

Aug 9, 1600Z-2300Z, San Diego, CA. USS Midway CV-41 Museum Radio Room, NI6IW. US Coast Guard Birthday in 1790 and National Code Talkers Day. SSB 14.325 7.250 CW 14.060 7.040 BPSK 7.070-7.080 MT63 14.109 7.037 RTTY 14.080 7.080. QSL. USS Midway CV-41 Museum Radio Room, 910 N Harbor Dr, San Diego, CA 92101.
af6ha@yahoo.com

Aug 9-Aug 10, 1600Z-1900Z, Plano, TX. Plano Amateur Radio Klub (PARK), K5PRK. PARK is celebrating their 35th anniversary as a club. 28.350 21.300 14.255 147.18. QSL. PARK, PO Box 860435, Plano, TX 75086. www.k5prk.org

Aug 9-Aug 10, 1800Z-1800Z, Mt Sunflower, KS. Trojan and Sand Hills Amateur Radio Clubs, K4S. Highest point in Kansas. Part of Colorado 14er Event. 14.260 14.060 7.260 147.42. QSL. K4S, 1553 County Road T, Colby, KS 67701. www.14er.org

Aug 10, 1200Z-1600Z, Uncompahgre Mountain, CO. Old Goats QRPExpedition Team, N0B. N7UN/N0TU/K0UIF to climb/activate the summit for 14er event. 18.157 14.342 14.060 7.060. QSL. N0B -- Guy Hamblen, 16 Dongan Ln, Newfoundland, NJ 07435. *Colorado 14er Event.* n0b-14er.blogspot.com or www.14er.org